

### REMARKS

This paper is respectfully submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated February 8, 2005 having a shortened statutory period set to expire on May 8, 2005

### TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner in her voicemail message response on or about March 9, 2005 to Applicants' telephone message inquiry on or about the same date. The response to rejection related below is framed in light of Applicants' and the Examiner's shared understanding that Applicants' present Application claims priority to European Patent Application 00480012.4, filed December 1, 1999.

Applicants apologize for Applicants' lack of clarity in previous communications. Applicants thank the Examiner for her patience.

### CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the present Office Action, Claims 1, 7 and 10-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/00552057 by Lai *et. al* (*Lai*). Applicants most respectfully submit that *Lai* does not anticipate Applicants' amended Claims 1, 7 and 10-27, because Applicants' application claims priority to European Patent Application 00480012.4, filed December 1, 1999, as is described in Applicants' Declaration and Power of Attorney, filed on October 6, 2000 with Applicants' original application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have attached a reference copy of both Applicants' Declaration and Power of Attorney and Applicants' Certificate of Express Mailing, dated October 6, 2000.

While *Lai* does claim priority to both provisional application No. 60/211,095, filed on June 12, 2000 and Taiwan Patent Application 89116720, filed August 18, 2000, Applicant's claim of priority to European Patent Application 00480012.4, filed December 1, 1999, predates

both of the priority claims of *Lai* and disqualifies *Lai* as a reference against Applicants' present application.

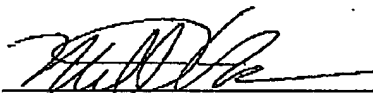
### CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all Claims are now in condition for allowance. Because the amendments and arguments overcome the claim rejections, Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims now pending.

No additional fees are believed to be required; however, in the event that additional fees are required, please charge any other fees necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION'S Deposit Account No. 09-0457**.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.343.6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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